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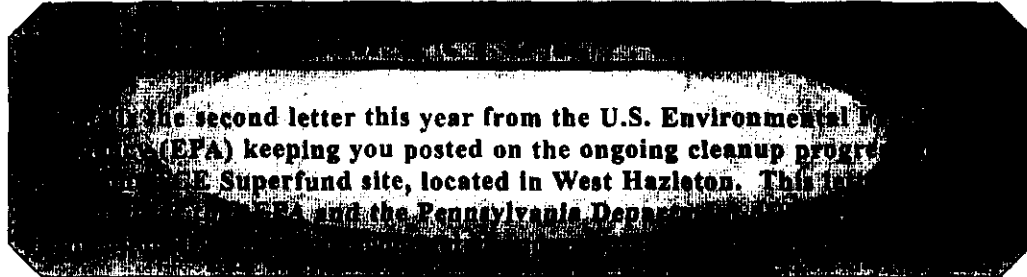
## VALMONT TCE SITE

West Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

March 2002



The second letter this year from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) keeping you posted on the ongoing cleanup program at the Valmont TCE Superfund site, located in West Hazleton. This letter is from the EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

### Home Air Sampling

In the fall of 2001, PADEP sampled 8 homes in the community. They sampled soil gas and indoor air to find a relationship between indoor air contamination and the plume of contamination from the site. A team of environmental and health experts later went back to these homes to explain that the sampling numbers revealed a "theoretical" risk, but no demonstrable health hazard, from indoor air pollution levels. The theoretical risks could be overestimated, since they include protective assumptions and many safety factors. The experts were from the EPA, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADEP), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a sister agency of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

EPA offered carbon filtration units to families living in two of these homes. EPA installed these refrigerator-sized units in their basements. They have powerful fans that filter the air through replaceable carbon filters. Only the homes which showed TCE, TCA or TCE-related contamination, which are related to this site, were offered these units.

An additional 28 homes were sampled by EPA in mid-February 2002, and we are awaiting the results of those samples. EPA contractors collected one sample from the basement and one from the first floor of each home. Analysis of this data will help EPA determine the source of the TCE contamination - whether the source is in the basement itself, such as household chemicals or construction materials, or in the contaminated groundwater plume.

EPA is considering another round of home air sampling later this year. Any resident with special concerns (small children, chronic health problems, etc.) may be added to this list for future sampling. If you would like your home to be sampled, send a letter requesting sampling, including your name, address and telephone number, and a reason for the request to:

**Romuald A. Roman, C.I.H. (3HS22)**

**Remedial Project Manager**

**U.S. EPA Region III**

**1650 Arch Street**

**Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029**

**(To confirm your request, please call Mr. Roman at (215) 814 3212.)**

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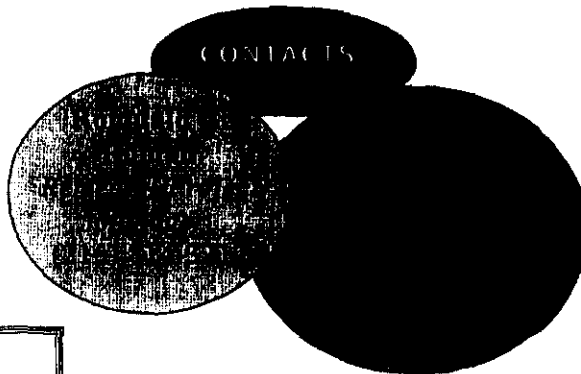
## Site Investigation

EPA plans to start the groundwater and soil investigations in April. The old Chromatex building and surrounding areas will also be inspected and sampled. EPA recently obtained access to the site from a Chromatex representative to allow on-site work to move forward. EPA's trailer and staging area will be situated in the parking lot at the Chromatex plant.

EPA has already received historical and contemporary aerial photographs of the site. These photos will be helpful in the investigation and may allow us to determine past disposal areas.

### SEWER LINE SAMPLING

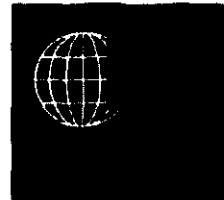
Another important set of data from the sewer line sampling will be available in April. In February 2002, EPA took water samples from nine manholes in the neighborhood. These samples will determine if the TCE contamination may be coming from the sewer system.



## Site History

Contaminated groundwater was discovered at the Valmont TCE site in October 1987 when sampling of residential water wells revealed the presence of TCE and other chemicals. EPA provided bottled water and carbon filtration units to the 27 homes that used the wells. By the end of that year, EPA provided municipal water supply connections to all residents, eliminating exposure to the TCE from their drinking water. Subsequent investigation indicated that the former Chromatex Plant #2 contributed to the groundwater contamination.

**For More Information,  
please visit our website at:  
[www.epa.gov/superfund](http://www.epa.gov/superfund)**



## EPA Update on Site Progress



**William Hudson (3HS43)  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029**

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